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Contact: Suzanne Stanis, Historic Landmarks Foundation, 317-639-4534 or 800-450-4534, stanis@historiclandmarks.org

For immediate release

Create a Landmark contest open to schools statewide

Contest combines education, fun, and starring role at museum

If their class enters the Create a Landmark contest, students will have the thrill of seeing their work among the exhibits at the Indiana State Museum. The annual research and model-building competition is sponsored by Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, AIA Indiana, the Indiana State Museum, and the Indiana Department of Education.

The contest requires fourth-, fifth- and sixth-grade classes to do research and then create models of historic landmarks in Indiana. Over the course of the model-building project, children become advocates for understanding and preserving Indiana's architectural heritage.

All entries are displayed at the Indiana State Museum for one week prior to May 16, the day of judging. On the contest day, spokespersons from each class talk to judges about their model and the landmark it represents. Judges base their decisions on creativity, accuracy, depth of research and student responses to judges' questions.

The entire class can tour the museum for free before the awards ceremony where children, teachers, parents and friends cheer for the winners as they receive cash prizes.

The Create a Landmark competition teaches children how to closely observe the man-made environment and appreciate the importance and relevance of history. In addition, teachers' creative approaches to the contest have included science lessons that explain the creation of building materials, and composition classes that show students how to write letters to a newspaper editor about an endangered building.

In math lessons, the contest has been used to demonstrate the practical uses for computing volume, and understanding engineering principles and construction methods. In social studies class, classes involved in the project have researched how transportation history, changes in religious views, and clothing styles have affected the structure they selected to create. (Historic Landmarks Foundation offers teachers ideas for using the contest in their classrooms on its website, www.historiclandmarks.org.)

The contest is open to fourth-, fifth- and sixth-grade classes statewide. The class winning first prize receives \$200; second prize is \$150, and third prize, \$100. The deadline for entering Create a Landmark is March 27, 2009. Models are due at the Indiana State Museum on May 9-10. Contest entry fee is \$10.

For more information about Create a Landmark and an entry form, call Suzanne Stanis at Historic Landmarks headquarters, 317-639-4534 or 800-450-4534 or visit www.historiclandmarks.org

Contest deadlines:

March 27, 2009: Entry form, entry fee, and list of participating students postmarked

May 9-10, 2009: Models delivered to the Indiana State Museum.

May 10 through May 16, 2009: Entries on display in the Museum.

May 16, 2009: Judging and awards ceremony; model pick up.

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Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, a private not-for-profit organization, saves, restores and protects places of historical and architectural significance. From its headquarters and nine regional offices around the state, Historic Landmarks provides assistance to save endangered landmarks, offers advice on restoration and adaptive use, and stages tours and special events throughout the state. Supported by nearly 9,500 members, Historic Landmarks Foundation is the largest statewide preservation organization in the U.S. Call 800-450-4534 or visit www.historiclandmarks.org for more information.